GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4233
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Punitive Action for Polluting Ganga River
Patel Shri Natubhai Gomanbhai

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the works being undertaken by the Government for cleaning Ganga River;
(b) whether the Government has announced for punitive action or fine against the people found throwing waste into the river; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons against whom punitive action has been taken so far, if any?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) The works being undertaken by the Government for cleaning river Ganga may be grouped under three levels of activities:
(i) entry level activities- consisting of cleaning river surface, repair and modernization of Ghats, provision of public amenities, village level drain (VLD) treatment, repair and modernization of crematoria.
(ii) Medium level activities-consisting of creation of waste management in the cities along river Ganga including setting up of Sewage treatment plants and sewage network.
(iii) Other Activities including bio-diversity, afforestation, water quality monitoring and development of Ganga Grams.
As on 30th June 2016, 97 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange programme (including the existing projects sanctioned under NGRBA programme) in 53 towns at an estimated project cost of Rs 8588.21 Crores. Out of these, 12 projects are sanctioned exclusively under new components of Namami Gange programme with a sanctioned cost of Rs 351.42 Crores. Out of 97 projects, 32 are completed. The Government recently launched 231 entry level and medium term projects under Namami Gange on 7th July, 2016. These projects include Ghat Development, Crematoria, setting up of Sewage treatment plants, afforestation etc.
Apart from above, "River Surface and Ghat Cleaning" programme using thrash skimmer has been taken up initially in 6 cities namely Mathura-Vrindavan, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna and New Delhi under the Namami Gange programme. Also, 5 central public sector units namely WAPCOS, EIL, NBCC, NPCC and EPIL have been recently engaged to carry out of work on condition Assessment & Feasibility Study and Entry level activities under Namami Gange Programme in their respective river stretches in Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. 59 towns have been surveyed so far and 27 pre-feasibility reports prepared and received. The other activities taken up under entry level activities include repair and modernization of Ghats, provision of public amenities, village level drain (VLD) treatment, repair and modernization of crematoria etc. 1242 ghats, 369 crematoria and 411 VLDs identified so far from the surveys and out of these 191 Ghats and 64 Crematoriums are recommended by Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) till date.
(b) There are existing provisions under Environmental Protection Act (1986) and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1974) which are sufficient to prevent dumping waste into river Ganga.
(c) Does not arise.
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